

### [Democrats propose tax on Street transactions](#)

Quad-City Times

By Ed Tibbetts

Quad-City area Democrats are among a group of legislators proposing a new tax on Wall Street transactions.

U.S. Sen. Tom Harkin and Rep. Bruce Braley were among a group pitching the plan. They said half the

\$150 billion raised each year would go to help pay down the deficit, with the rest to be used for programs.

"For the past eight years, our economic policies have put the interests of Wall Street ahead of the interests of Main Street Americans," Braley said.

He was one of about a half-dozen Democrats who held a news conference Thursday in Washington, D.C., to propose the plan.

"There is no question that Wall Street can easily bear this tax," Harkin said, noting the taxpayer bailout of Wall Street.

U.S. Rep. Phil Hare, D-Ill., also is a co-sponsor of the bill.

The tax on stock transactions would be 0.25 percent.

The tax would not include mutual funds, health savings, retirement and education savings accounts, or the first \$100,000 worth of transactions.

Lawmakers say the tax is aimed at Wall Street traders.

There also would be smaller levies on more sophisticated products, like credit default swaps, futures contracts and options.

The securities industry is objecting to the plan.

Kenneth Bentsen Jr., executive vice president of the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association, called it "the wrong policy at the wrong time."

He said the new tax would raise the cost of capital when credit is still needed in the economy. Also, he said, the exemptions would be unworkable.

The legislation is titled, the "Let Wall Street Pay for the Restoration of Main Street Act of 2009."